

MCRSP LIFELINE

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ADVOCACY DAY

During our recent Advocacy Day at the Missouri State Capitol in Jefferson City, Marsha Hawkins-Hourd, our Board Chair; Brendon Steenbergen, MCRSP Executive Director; and Ladell Flowers, Immediate Past Chair for the Board of Directors, had the privilege of meeting with John Black, who represents Webster County (District 129) in the Missouri House of Representatives.

We are particularly proud to highlight the tireless efforts of Representative

John Black, who has been an unwavering advocate for recovery support at the Capitol. His commitment to supporting recovery services and ensuring individuals in recovery have the resources they need has made a tremendous difference in our community.

A huge thank you to all of our dedicated leaders for their unwavering commitment to supporting the recovery movement in Missouri!

ADVOCACY DAY PRE-MEETING

On March 3rd, MCRSP hosted a successful pre-meeting at the Courtyard Marriott in preparation for Advocacy Day at the Missouri State Capitol. Advocates from across the state gathered to connect, review key talking points, and discuss strategies to effectively advocate for recovery services and resources.

During the meeting, MCRSP leadership provided valuable insights into the day's agenda, ensuring that everyone felt confident and prepared for their meetings with legislators. It was an opportunity to network, ask questions, and further strengthen our collective voice for the recovery community.

We are grateful for the dedication of all who attended. Together, we made a strong impact, highlighting the needs of those in recovery across Missouri.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INPUT

Thank you for sharing your valuable feedback with the Missouri Coalition of Recovery Support Providers. Your insights are essential as we enhance our strategic plan and identify the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) impacting our work and recovery services in Missouri.

By participating, you've helped ensure your voice is heard, playing a key role in shaping the future of our work. Your feedback reflects a collective commitment to improving recovery support services statewide. We truly appreciate your contributions, which will guide the MCRSP Strategic Planning Committee in developing a forward-thinking plan.

Thank you for your continued support as we work to better serve our community.



BUDGET CHAIR MEETING

During a recent meeting, MCRSP leaders had the privilege of meeting with Representative Dirk Deaton, the Budget Chair for District 159. This important discussion focused on the needs and priorities of the recovery community in Missouri, as well as the impact of state funding on recovery services across the state. As Budget Chair, Representative Deaton plays a crucial role in shaping the state's financial priorities, and his support is instrumental in securing vital resources for recovery programs.

Pictured left to right are Ryan Gibson, Alon Fisch, Brendon Steenberg (MCRSP Executive Director), Shawn Smith, Representative Dirk Deaton, James Hess, Tammy McKaughlin, and Kari Smith.

We are incredibly grateful for Representative Deaton's time and consideration in discussing these critical issues. His leadership in the state budget process is essential to ensuring that individuals in recovery continue to receive the support and resources they need to thrive. The conversations held during this meeting are an important step in building a stronger relationship between lawmakers and the recovery community.

Thank you to all those who participated in this important conversation and for their continued advocacy for the recovery community in Missouri. Your dedication helps move the recovery movement forward and strengthens our collective impact.



Dear MCRSP Community,

As we step into March, our focus has been on the Missouri legislature and the vital role our state leaders play in shaping the future of recovery support services. In a year of transition and uncertainty, one fact remains clear: recovery support services work.

Recovery is not just about individuals—it reunites families, reduces crime, strengthens our state's tax base, and helps people return to school and work. Every dollar Missouri invests in recovery generates a \$7 return to our economy. With substance use disorders costing Missouri \$8.5 billion annually in healthcare, criminal justice, and lost productivity, investing in recovery is not just the right thing to do—it's the smart thing to do.

This month, MCRSP has been actively engaged at the Capitol, ensuring our message is heard. We've met with legislators, shared data, and highlighted success stories that prove the value of our work. Our advocacy will continue until the legislative session ends later this spring.

Thank you to each of you who contribute to this mission—whether by providing direct services, advocating for policy changes, or supporting recovery in your own way. Your efforts are making a real difference, and together, we will continue to build a stronger Missouri.

Warm regards,

Brendon Steenberg
Executive Director, MCRSP



MINI-GRANTS

The Missouri Coalition of Recovery Support Providers receives funding from the Missouri Department of Mental Health to help community organizations host local events that raise awareness about substance use, break stigma, and connect individuals to essential resources. We encourage organizations to apply soon to take advantage of the remaining funds.



MINI GRANT AWARDS

MoNetwork

On February 14, 2025, MoNetwork hosted a Galentine's event, bringing together a wonderful group of women for an evening of connection, creativity, and self-care. Attendees enjoyed a "girl dinner" featuring take-home charcuterie boards and participated in hands-on activities, including candle-making and flower arranging.

This event reflects MCRSP's mission by providing a supportive and uplifting space where individuals could build meaningful connections—an essential part of the recovery journey.

MCRSP is proud to support events like this that highlight the importance of community, healing, and empowerment in recovery.



MINI GRANT AWARDS



On February 9, 2025, Landmark Recovery hosted a Super Bowl Watch Party, offering a free sober activity for individuals in recovery who might not otherwise celebrate the occasion. This family-friendly event was designed to provide a fun, supportive environment where people in recovery could build healthier relationships while enjoying the game.

Attendees enjoyed a variety of food, including wings, pizza, cupcakes, chips, cookies, and soda options. The event also featured exciting prize giveaways, including gift cards, tickets to Six Flags, tickets to the City Museum, and much more!

The game was streamed on a massive projector screen with surround sound, providing an immersive experience for the 70 people in attendance.



With the help of funding from the Department of Mental Health MCRSP is proud to support events like this that emphasize the importance of building healthier relationships and supporting individuals in their recovery journey.

By promoting positive social interactions and providing opportunities for fun, sober activities, we are helping individuals in recovery strengthen their support systems and build a foundation for lasting recovery. Events like these highlight the crucial role that community plays in supporting and sustaining the recovery journey.



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